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PANHANDLE ROBBERIES.

Proof at Hand to Show that Every Man Arrested is Guilty—Some of the Thieves Still at Large.

One of the Robbers When Arrested Attending His Child's Death-Bed. Dynamite Cartridges Found.

Main Points of Dunlap's Confession—Each Crime Worn by Itself—How Green Hands Were Initiated.

THE SENSATION OF THE DAY.

PITTSBURG, Pa., April 12.—The Panhandle robberies continue to be a sensation. No arrests have been reported since last night. Speaking of the probable conviction of the men now in jail, Special Agent Rue said: "We have our evidence so complete that we did not make an arrest until we had sufficient proof to show that every man was guilty. We expect to make eight or ten more arrests. This will swell the total number arrested to 70." The officers of the road believe that the prisoners were thoughtfully organized and were carrying on the robbery under the systematic direction of shrewd leaders. When a new man entered the service of the road, if he was thought to be the right kind of a fellow, he was taken into the gang with a right oath binding him to secrecy. After he had been initiated, he was brought to him that any wrong move would result disastrously, as railroading furnished first-class opportunities for putting men out of the way. Young men from the country who were just learning to run on the road, were the easiest prey. They could soon be persuaded that there was nothing wrong about stealing from rich railroad companies. Being unused to the trick of old hands they were easily deceived and were not long before they could not get out if they wanted.

Superintendent Taylor's office was besieged today morning by dozens of men who were in search of employment. They knocked to the door and asked for a job. A line of them extended outside of the office awaiting their applications for situations, as freight conductors or brakemen, to be heard. Many of them were given employment. The road is now fully equipped and there is being no delay in the movement of freight.

Mr. Rue said the saddest case in connection with the arrests was that of a man whose child was dying when the officers knocked at the door of his home on Sunday night. He was sitting at his wife's bedside, and his child, who was a man of more than ordinary intelligence, and his name had an air of refinement about it. When the officers told him they had a warrant for his arrest, he seemed to be in a state of collapse, and when he had fallen, and he broke down completely.

The capture of J. R. Dunlap at Denison, Ohio, yesterday, particularly pleased the detectives. As stated last night, he made a confession in which he said the stealing had been going on for months. He said he could give the names of all the men implicated in the Pittsburgh division of the Panhandle, but was afraid to do so, his language to the officers being, "I would give you the names of the officers, but by God they would kill me." There was no organization among the robbers, Dunlap said, and no regular plan of work. Each crew worked by itself. It was the common understanding that every man should take care of himself and dispose of the loot as he saw fit. There were a number of principals, that name being applied to those who reaped the largest benefits from the robberies or giving others pointers as to what cars contained the most goods. These persons were known as "bosses" and were the most prominent thieves after the plunder had been disposed of to the "bums," which Dunlap said were located in New York, Philadelphia, Denison, St. Louis, Cincinnati and Pittsburg, and also in Columbus.

While running through the effects of one of the ringleaders of the Panhandle robbers this morning, Special Officer Miller discovered a package containing six dynamite cartridges sufficient to blow up the largest building in town. The discovery created considerable alarm, and the cartridges were taken very gingerly. Further examination disclosed a lot of false caps, in fact all the necessary paraphernalia for the successful firing of the cartridges. Immediately after finding the dynamite the investigation was begun. The results, however, the detectives refuse to make public. They even declined to give the name of the man in whose room the stuff was found. Officer Miller intimated that the object of the robbery in securing and storing the dynamite was known, and that it would make a good reading when the proper time for its disclosure came.

Pittsburg and in several other cities not far away. These cases will be worked up soon.

A LAW TO COVER FUTURE CASES. DENISON, Pa., April 12.—A bill was introduced in the State Legislature last night which is intended to cover such cases as the railroad car robberies brought to light in this city yesterday. The bill is in the shape of an amendment to the Penal Code, relating to the breaking or entering of cars or locomotives. At present there is no specific law for breaking open a car unless it is proved that the car was forced with intent to commit felony. The proposed act provides, "that any person who shall in the time broken and enter any car, caboose or locomotive, or willfully and maliciously, either by day or night, with or without breaking, enter the same with intent to commit any felony whatever therein, the person so offending shall be guilty of felony and on conviction shall be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding \$500 and to undergo imprisonment by separate and solitary confinement at labor not exceeding four years."

Of course this cannot apply to the present cases in Pittsburg, but it will cover any that may occur in the future.

THE RINGLEADER CONFESSES.

PITTSBURG, Pa., April 12.—At a late hour last night J. R. Dunlap, who is regarded as the ringleader of the railroad robbers, made a confession to the detectives in which he implicated several outsiders and located the "fences" at Denison, O., New Philadelphia and other places.

THE FIRST CLEW.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., April 13.—The statement is made here that evidence of guilt of the parties arrested for complicity in the wholesale plunder of the Panhandle Railroad Company was developed from a government bonded car which had been broken open with a steel chisel, and the tool had been left behind, which led to the story, with the initials P. S. L. & C. stamped upon it. The initials indicated that the tool belonged to the Pittsburg, St. Louis and Chicago Railroad, and the tool chest from whence it came was easily found and the crew of that train were spotted. The goods were consigned to S. C. Davis & Co. of this city. The depredateurs, in taking the goods, matched the numbers on the barrels and stocks, which is ample evidence of their not having been buried, and showing further that they knew that either stock or barrel would be useless without the numbers matched. From these facts followed a system of espionage with the result of unearthing the whole gang.

MORE DEVELOPMENTS.

PITTSBURG, Pa., April 13.—The accomplices of the railroad thieves are resorting to threats to intimidate the Panhandle road officials. Among the mail laid on Superintendent Taylor's office this morning was a letter from Denison, addressed to Taylor, who opened it and found the following threatening message: "Don't make any more arrests, damn you, or we will cut your damn wires and do it as often as we please. You can't get us all. You had better let the matter drop."

Superintendent Taylor thinks he recognizes the handwriting, and the man will be spotted. He is still in the company's employ. This letter would indicate that the thieves have not all been captured and that the gang was well organized. The police are still working quietly on the case and some startling developments are promised, but of what nature cannot be surmised. Two more arrests were made shortly after midnight. John Barth and C. W. Smith, brakemen, supposed to be implicated in the robberies, were surprised at their homes. Both were discharged from the Panhandle a short time ago, and have since been working on the Baltimore and Ohio. They are now in the employ of the Pennsylvania Railway, the Fort Wayne, the Lake Erie and Baltimore and Ohio. It is asserted that the same want to other lines to organize the crews of these roads with the view of systematic robbery. The probability that the robberies have extended to Fort Wayne and Cleveland and Pittsburg is based on the fact of these roads paralleling each other for a considerable distance, and of the naturally close relation which would exist among the men engaged on them. There is admittedly less ground for the probability in case of the Pennsylvania, as Special Agent Rue has said repeatedly that there is no stealing on that line, and still less probability of it on the Lake Erie on account of its short line, smaller number of trains and consequently the difficulty of escaping detection. Superintendent Taylor, in speaking of the arrests, stated to-day that there were still a large number of train men on the Pittsburg division on whom there did not rest the slightest suspicion. For these the company has the kindest feelings, he said, there were eight through freights between Pittsburg and Columbus. Of this number thirty-five were west of Denison and were not under surveillance. Of the remaining forty-five crews employing 180 men, sixty men were arrested. This left about 120 men between Pittsburg and Denison, he said, who were not under suspicion and were still working. The counsel for the prisoners have not yet determined upon a plan of defense, but they are waiting the result of the hearing on Monday. The cases against the prisoners will then be disclosed and thus let the men know what they are expected to meet. There is an effort being made by the attorneys for the railroad to push the cases, so they can be heard by the present grand jury, and thus secure trial at the present term of court. The Assistant District Attorney stated to-day that it was the intention of the grand jury to finish the work laid out for this term next week, but if it seems better that the jury should hold over ten days for the disposal of some of the railroad cases, that will be done. He will be assisted in framing the indictments by the counsel for the railroad, but neither this work, nor in fact any, can be done until after the cases are heard before the grand jury.

The United States authorities have decided to proceed against the Panhandle plunderers for breaking into government bonded cars. An investigation is now in progress here, and the matter will then be laid before the Department of Justice for further action. The Pennsylvania Company announced through one of its leading officials to-day that five days would be given to the people having in their possession goods stolen from Panhandle trains in which to return the same. All these packages must be addressed B. Taylor, superintendent packing room, Pittsburg. No questions will be asked and no further investigation will follow if the goods are returned. The company has a list of over forty houses in this city in which stolen property is concealed, and it is to reach these and save the trouble of numerous arrests and long trials that this method has been adopted.

READY TO PROCEED AGAINST THE COMPANY. PITTSBURG, Pa., April 13.—John Nimmo, Chief of the Brotherhood of Brakemen on the Panhandle road, called upon Deputy Mayor Grippy, before whom the warrants had been sworn out, for the arrest of the Panhandle culprits, this morning and stated that he had been employed on the Panhandle Road for the past four months. During that time he had never seen anything crooked among the employees. The Brotherhood, he said, would employ counsel to defend the prisoners, and if possible to establish their innocence. If proofs were shown of their guilt, however, the brotherhood would insist on their conviction. It was the intention also to proceed against the company for damages if the charges against any of the men under arrest are not sustained.

RAIN AT MIDLAND.

MIDLAND, TEX., April 12.—Midland received the worst wind and dust storm about 4 o'clock to-day it has yet experienced. Immediately following the wind was a good rain, and it has since continued with a fair prospect of keeping up during the night. It has encouraged stockmen and others for all feel sure that the backbone of the drought is broken.

RAIN OVER 300 MILES.

Big Springs, Tex., April 12.—A copious rain fell here this afternoon, it being the first for about seven months. Good rains are also reported at all points between Merkle and Van Horn on the Texas and Pacific Railway, a distance of over 300 miles. This rain is a great boon for stockmen in this vicinity, as many of them could not have held out much longer.

AT COLORADO CITY.

COLORADO CITY, TEX., April 12.—A tremendous rain fell here this evening and is still falling, and indications are that the storm has spread over a large scope of country. This will be the saving of the stock interests, as the young grass has already started and will soon be large enough for stock. Advice received to-day from Pecosado, Crosby county, report a heavy rainfall there last Saturday and the farmers and stockmen in good spirits.

AT DENISON.

DENISON, TEX., April 13.—A misting rain has been falling all day long, but much more is needed.

AT CLEBURNE.

CLEBURNE, TEX., April 13.—A very refreshing but slight rain fell here this morning. Indications are good for plenty of rain.

AT BROWNWOOD.

BROWNWOOD, TEX., April 13.—Quite a heavy rain fell here for about half an hour last night, with a slight shower this morning.

AT BOWIE.

BOWIE, TEX., April 13.—A light rain set in this morning doing a world of good to this dry country. The only objection is there was not enough of it.

AT DENTON.

DENTON, TEX., April 13.—A fine rain fell here to-day, which will be of immense benefit to growing crops of every kind. The prospect for more is good.

AT QUANAH.

QUANAH, TEX., April 12.—The best rain since September is falling now. It is worth thousands of dollars to this drought stricken section.

RAIN AT SWEETWATER.

SWEETWATER, TEX., April 12.—It began raining here about 10 p. m. this evening and has been raining about two hours, with fair prospects for a heavy rain.

AT MCGREGOR.

MCGREGOR, TEX., April 13.—With a strong south wind there came a shower this morning, but the wind shifted to the north and is blowing strong and cool at 5 p. m. The clouds are still dense, with strong indications of its proving a wet norther.

AT MORGAN.

MORGAN, TEX., April 13.—A light rain fell this morning, which, though not sufficient to do any material good to crops, has inspired the farmers with hope that copious showers will follow in a day or two. The counties west of this were blessed with a good rain.

AT GAINESVILLE.

GAINESVILLE, TEX., April 13.—A light rain began falling this morning and continued for several hours. It is believed a large section of this county was visited by rain, but not enough to reach the branches. The clouds are threatening to-night and indications are good for more.

AT BATON.

BATON, TEX., April 13.—A gentle rain began falling here at 9 o'clock last night and continued until about 10 o'clock this morning. As measured by an accurate instrument, it shows that 6.10 of an inch was the extent of the fall, and prospect point to another shower this evening.

AT COLLINSVILLE.

COLLINSVILLE, TEX., April 13.—A nice rain fell here to-day, which has shortened up all the long faces and lengthened out vegetation considerably.

AT PILOT POINT.

PILOT POINT, TEX., April 13.—A light rain fell here for several hours this morning and while doing much good we will need more. Corn and cotton are looking well.

AT WEATHERFORD.

WEATHERFORD, TEX., April 13.—This morning at 7 o'clock a copious rain began to fall, lasting until nearly noon, which will be worth thousands of dollars to this county, although a great deal more rain is needed here.

IN PALO PINTO COUNTY.

PALO PINTO, TEX., April 13.—This morning at 3:30 o'clock the drought was broken. Rain began to fall and continued for five hours, coming down gradually and in the best manner possible to give the earth a wetting. At this time the clouds are giving way, but the indications

are that more may follow this shower, as Texas never does matters in part when the weather is taken into consideration.

AT LAMPASAS.

LAMPASAS, TEX., April 13.—This section was visited last night and this morning with a good rain, and every sign indicates that we will have more, but enough has fallen to bridge over for several weeks, and farmers, ranchmen and merchants are wearing to-day a broad smile of satisfaction.

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APPALLING.

Not Less Than Thirteen Lives Lost by the Prairie Fires in Norton and Graham Counties, Kansas.

In One Instance a Whole Family, Consisting of Father, Mother and Four Children, Are Burned.

Immense Loss of Stock, Grain and Farm Property—Half a Million Dollars Blazes at Chicago.

Another Kansas Plague.

ATCHISON, KAN., April 13.—Reports concerning the destruction of life and property caused by the great prairie fire that swept over the eastern portion of Norton and Graham counties Saturday last are yet meagre and unsatisfactory, but enough is known to appal the stoutest hearts. The fire started near Nicodemus, in Graham county. The wind which was blowing forty miles an hour carried the flames over and through the dry grass at a frightful speed. The general destruction of property commenced near Roscoe in Graham county. Here the fire spread over the country for fully two and a half miles in width, and as the wind carried it north it was constantly spreading, until it was seven miles wide where it crossed the North fork of Solomon river, three miles east of Dinsmore. A few houses were burned and every stable, with its stacks of hay and cribs of grain, was burned, leaving hundreds of farmers almost destitute. It is a pitiful sight to pass over the burned district and see the thousands of burned chickens, turkeys and hundreds of pigs, with occasionally horses and numerous cattle. Almost every farmer lost from fifty to 500 bushels of corn, besides small grain. It is definitely known that from thirteen to sixteen lives were lost in two counties, but the names have not been learned. Four children perished.

IN ONE FAMILY.

How far the fire extended north from the Solomon is not known, but it must have traveled a long distance. At the same time another fire swept down the South Fork of the Solomon to a point near Mill Brook, sweeping everything in its path and burning six persons to death, a father, mother and four children, and a large number of cattle, horses, hogs and poultry.

One instance of a woman prematurely gave birth to a child. When the fire was discovered approaching, her husband took her in his arms and started for ploughed ground, but before he could reach it the woman's clothing was on fire. He succeeded in putting it out and saving her life. The babe, less than an hour old, with the other members of the family, were saved, but the house and other property on the farm was destroyed. Hundreds of narrow escapes could be related. Saturday was a frightful day—one long to be remembered by a great many families in Norton and Graham counties.

WALL PAPER HOUSE BURNED.

CHICAGO, ILL., April 13.—J. J. McGrath's wall paper house, located in a five-story building on Wabash avenue, was totally destroyed by fire early this morning. The stock is an immense one, and the building is irreparably injured, the floor having fallen through. The front and rear walls are ruined. The fire was attended by two fatalities. Pipeman Michael Burns was standing in a fourth story window when a sheet of flame came and enveloped him about the waist, and he fell into the burning mass inside. Lieutenant John Herberle was climbing a ladder to the second story window when it slipped and he fell to the sidewalk, crushing his skull. Captain Fred Reed had a leg broken by falling on the stones. The fire was discovered at 3:30 o'clock. When the fire arrived the fire was in the center of the building, but before the hose could be brought to bear, the flames had jumped from story to story above and below, and seized speedily upon the very inflammable stuff with which the floors were loaded. A second and third alarm were turned on, and twenty engines were soon working upon the building. The firemen say they never saw so rapid and complete destruction of a large establishment. The fire was out at 5 o'clock and, owing to the exertions of the firemen, little if any damage was done to the adjoining buildings, which are occupied by wholesale jewelry and millinery houses. The loss on the building and stock is estimated at \$225,000, only partially insured.

The owner of the stock of wall paper declared this morning that the loss would reach \$300,000. It was probably the largest stock carried by any one firm in America. The insurance will fall short of the loss by \$300,000.

PRairie Fires in Dakota.

SIOUX FALLS, D. T., April 12.—Reports of the loss of property from the prairie fires during the terrible wind storm of Friday and Saturday continue to come in. The loss is estimated at \$1,000,000. A city tremendous fire started and swept the country for miles, destroying houses, barns and all other property in its path. It was the most destructive fire that ever visited this part of the country. The total loss exceeds \$100,000.

KANSAS Prairie Fire.

ATCHISON, KAN., April 12.—A disastrous prairie fire is raging in Phillip and Norton counties in Kansas. It started Saturday evening near Edmond, where four houses were burned, and crossing the Central Branch Railway extended northwesterly to Narco, having destroyed quite a number of houses with all other perishable property in its track. It is reported that nine to twelve persons perished, but the facts cannot be definitely learned, owing to the injury to the telegraph wires.

GRAY LOSS OF LIFE.

ATCHISON, KAN., April 12.—No less than fifteen persons have been burned to death by the prairie fires which started near Nicodemus, Graham county. They have swept northwest on an air line into Norton county, destroying everything in their path which, in places, is from two and a half to seven miles wide, forming a great roaring sea of flame, rolling in tremendous sheets under the impetus of a high wind which prevailed all day Saturday and Sunday night. Starting on the south fork of Solomon river in Graham county, the fire swept north to near the Central Branch Railroad in Norton county, and at last accounts was still sweeping towards the northeast, diagonally across

Norton county in the direction of Decatur, the adjoining county on the west, carrying destruction and death in its path. Thousands of head of stock of all kinds have been burned. Thousands of tons of hay, corn, wheat, and from 100 to 175 houses and barns have been destroyed. The people living along the line of the fire have been left homeless and destitute. It is impossible as yet to learn the names of those who perished in the flames. Trains and telegraph lines are all through the burnt district.

The burnt district extends a distance of sixty miles in length by two-and-a-half to seven in width and the fire still spreading west and northwest. A large number of horses, cattle, sheep and hogs have been destroyed and considerable suffering among the people exists on account of the fires. Relief will be forwarded to them at once from the towns east of the fire line. The fire is still raging furiously and the people along its path are terror-stricken. The destruction of telegraph poles and wires between Greenleaf and Edmond prevents the obtaining of further details.

St. Augustine in Flames.

ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA., April 12.—The St. Augustine hotel took fire at 2:30 this morning and was destroyed. The old slave market is also gone and the ancient cathedral is in flames. Edwards' hotel and half dozen small buildings are on fire and it seems inevitable that the Florida house and the opera house must go. Danger of the destruction of the whole town from the plaza to the city gates is imminent. All of the seventy-six guests at St. Augustine got out in safety, as did also all help of that house and the guests and servants of the Edwards house.

LATER.—The fire has been stopped at Treasury street and the eastern portion of the town is safe.

The county court house and Vedder's museum were destroyed. All the county records were removed to a place of safety, but many valuable papers in the hands of lawyers who had offices in the county buildings were destroyed. Telegraph wires to all points are at present down, but the early re-establishment of communication is anticipated. There were no New England people in the St. Augustine hotel, nor was there the slightest accident to any one of its seventy-six guests, although it is reported that a colored scrub woman lost her life by running back into the servants' quarters for her effects. But little property here is insured as the buildings of the town were mostly of wood compactly built, and the place is provided with only one third-class steam fire engine. The average rate of insurance seems to be 64 percent, and this operated as a prohibitive tariff. The destruction of the wires at an early stage of the fire prevented a call being made on Jacksonville for assistance. The loss on the St. Augustine hotel is \$100,000. The insurance expired within twenty-four hours before the fire.

Under Federal Shelter.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—The following telegram was received at the Treasury Department to-day from the Collector of Customs at St. Augustine: "The principal part of the city is destroyed by fire. The county courthouse is also burned. Can I offer assistance in the way of rooms in the postoffice building not occupied? It is impossible to procure rooms outside of this building. The records are exposed."

Secretary Fairchild telegraphed as follows in reply: "Render every assistance to the city officials in the way of providing rooms in the postoffice building."

Ammonia in Baking Powders.

From the Scientific American. Among the recent discoveries in science and chemistry, none is more important than the uses to which common ammonia can be properly put as a leavening agent, and which indicate that this familiar salt is hereafter to perform an active part in the preparation of our daily food. The common ammonia is a very effective and volatile substance. Place a small portion of it upon a knife and hold over a flame, and it will almost immediately be entirely developed into gas and pass off into the air. The gas thus formed is a sharp and pungent odor, and is highly inflammable. No residue is left from the ammonia. This gives it its superiority as a leavening power over soda and cream of tartar used alone, and has induced its use as a supplement to the other articles. A small quantity of ammonia in the dough is effective in producing bread that will be lighter, sweeter and more wholesome than that risen by any other leavening agent. When it is acted upon by the heat of baking, the leavening gas that raises the dough is liberated. In this act it uses itself up, as it were, the ammonia is entirely diffused, leaving no trace or residue whatever. The light, fluffy appearance, so desirable in biscuits, etc., and so sought after by professional cooks, is said to be imparted to them only by the use of this agent.

The bakers and baking powder manufacturers producing the finest goods have been quick to avail themselves of this useful discovery, and the handsomest and best bread and cake are now largely risen by the aid of ammonia combined, of course, with other leavening agents.

Ammonia is one of the best known products of the laboratory. If, as seems to be justly claimed for it, the application of its properties to the purposes of cooking, results in giving us lighter and more wholesome bread, biscuit and cake, it will prove a boon to dyspeptic humanity, and will speedily force itself into general use in the new field to which science has assigned it.

England.

TO EULOGIZE BECHER.

LONDON, April 13.—R. V. Dr. Joseph Parker, pastor of the City Temple, states that he is almost certain to have discovered the proffered honor of delivering an eulogy on R. V. Henry Ward Beecher. Dr. Parker will sail early in June for New York. Dr. Parker explains that he has found it impossible to reach Brooklyn by June 1. He says he would be glad to accept the task of delivering the eulogy if the ceremony was arranged for June 24, Mr. Beecher's birthday.

Mrs. C. Kellough, Edgewood, Cal., says:

"Red Star Cough Cure is the best medicine I have ever used for colds for the children."